

**Minutes of Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection**  
**Friday, January 13, 2011**  
**Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center**  
**1776 E. Washington Street Urbana, IL 61802**

**Call to Order:** Chair Aaron Ammons called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Eight members appointed from the General Public were present: Aaron Ammons, William Brown, Brian Dolinar, Barbara Kessel, Joan Miller, Jennifer Putman, Patrick Thompson, Kenneth Turner. Two members appointed from the General Public were excused: Tricia Avery, Lorraine Cowart. Three Court Officials were present: Judge Thomas Difanis, Court Administrator Roger Holland, Public Defender Randy Rosenbaum. One Elected Official was present: County Board Chair Pius Weibel.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** The agenda was approved as circulated. Minutes of the November 5, 2010 meeting were approved as corrected/amended.

**Announcements/Communications:** Holland distributed copies of *A Handbook for Illinois Jurors: Petit Jury*, furnished by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Holland stated that the handbook is given to all prospective jurors who report for service. He noted that although the publication omits reference to juror compensation and to the Juror Qualification Questionnaire used in Champaign County, sections on these topics could be written for inclusion in the handbook for Champaign County jurors.

**Educating the Community about Jury Service (Updates):** Dolinar reported that Urbana High School educator Michael Pollock requested a summary in about three pages of the conclusions of the League of Women Voters/College of Law Courtwatching reports for use as curriculum material. Holland repeated that student groups are welcome to tour the courthouse at any time feasible. Holland recommended polling area employers to learn whose personnel policies include jury duty as paid time off, and perhaps creating a PSA that features them in an “honor roll” of civic-minded employers.

**Use of PSA on Community and Commercial Radio Stations:** Ammons reported that radio station owner J.W. Pirtle is willing to help secure a sponsor to underwrite the cost of airing jury service-awareness ads on station WBCP. Ammons and Pirtle have discussed scheduling a weekly thirty-minute show that would focus on courts-related topics in addition to jury service. The “Straight Talk Live” program might feature interviews with individuals such as Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Director Valerie McWilliams, Probation & Court Services Director Joseph Gordon, or Robert Spencer, the attorney who staffs the Courthouse Self-Help Desk.

**Legislative Affairs Subcommittee (Update):** Putman and Rosenbaum reported they and subcommittee member Avery will meet with Representative Naomi Jakobsson on January 31. The subcommittee hopes to prepare the draft of a bill to amend the statute that governs compilation of jury lists, which Rep Jakobsson could forward to the Legislative Reference Bureau before the February 4 deadline for submission of drafts.

**Next Meeting:** Chair Ammons will poll members electronically before setting the date of the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Chair Ammons adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Putman, Recording Secretary